



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND SMES
Ecosystems I: Chemicals, Food, Retail
F.1 – REACH

Brussels, 15 July 2024
GROW.F.1 [REDACTED]

Meeting with DAIKIN on PFAS

9 July 2024, Brussels (N105)

Minutes

Participants:

European Commission
GROW: Kristin Schreiber, [REDACTED]

DAIKIN:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (KREAB)
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Daikin introduced the business activities of their company in the EU. Daikin Chemical Europe is headquartered in Germany and has four manufacturing facilities in the EU: manufacturing of fluoroelastomer polymers in France, fluoropolymer (PTFE) compounds in Italy, refrigerants and pharma propellants (F-gases) in Germany and an innovation centre in Germany. Main uses of fluoropolymers are in automotive, semiconductors and hydrogen. F-gases are mainly used for heat pumps and for medical usage.

Daikin stopped using PFOA 9 years ago. PFOA is still creating issues and contamination around production sites is found. This is a legacy issue. Daikin changed to shorter chain PFAS and minimized emissions. Daikin signed the FPG manufacturing program. Daikin is working on substitution of PFAS substances wherever feasible but underlined that not in all uses alternatives are available, and asked that for those areas emission minimisation should be an option. Daikin will stop using fluorinated polymerization aids in the fluoroelastomer manufacture in France by the end of 2025. For locations outside EU, the substitution process has also started but can only be done step by step as not for everything alternatives are available (e.g. fluorinated emulsifiers). 80% of the fluoroelastomer production of Daikin France is for the EU market; accounting for around 25% of the market share. There is a very high level of emission control in place (emission elimination >99.9%). Daikin initiated activities to recycle fluorine in a pilot plant for their refrigerant production to CaF₂ (fluorspar) and for fluoropolymer recycling technologies.

On request by the Commission, Daikin explained that Japanese legislation is focused on implementing the Stockholm Convention, while other initiatives are on voluntary basis. There are regular meetings with METI and the Japanese environment ministry. Daikin explained the roles of the two ministries and their internal co-operation.

The Commission thanked Daikin for the clear presentation and welcomed the initiatives as presented. The Commission will reflect on its possible involvement in emission initiatives. Together with METI (Japan), the Commission will organize a workshop on PFAS by the end of October.